

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION TO CONVENE A TASK
3 FORCE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES IN
4 STATE AND REGIONAL WATER PLANNING PROGRAMS AND PROCESSES.
5

6 WHEREAS, legislative authority for regional water
7 planning was enacted in 1987 and was compiled at Section
8 72-14-43 NMSA 1978, wherein the legislature found that "the
9 future water needs of New Mexico can best be met by allowing
10 each region of the state to plan for its water future"; and

11 WHEREAS, with the interstate stream commission, local
12 government and private financial support, sixteen regions
13 developed their own regional water plans during the period
14 from 1995 to 2008; and

15 WHEREAS, during the thirty years that have elapsed since
16 regional water planning was authorized, threats to the
17 sustainability of New Mexico's water supplies have grown as
18 changing patterns of precipitation and increased demand have
19 reduced the availability of surface water, resulting in
20 unsustainable mining of ground water in many parts of the
21 state; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2013, the interstate stream commission
23 initiated a regional water plan update program that has been
24 largely implemented by interstate stream commission
25 consultant contractors assigned to every region working with

1 pro forma steering committees convened to provide input to
2 and ratify work products generated by those consultants; and

3 WHEREAS, concerns have been voiced around the state
4 regarding the process employed being driven by the state
5 rather than at the regional level, with the "common technical
6 platform" and with the "administrative water supply",
7 resulting in a failure to use best available science in the
8 update and thus making the regions potentially more
9 vulnerable to future impacts, including compact litigation;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, ongoing integrated water resources planning
12 tied to monitoring and implementation is vital for ensuring
13 the future economic, ecological and cultural well-being of
14 New Mexico;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it affirm the
17 importance of water planning and implementation as intended
18 in the 1987 legislation, while noting that a lack of adequate
19 definition of regional organizations, their boundaries, scope
20 of authority and continuity of functioning has hampered the
21 ability of existing regional entities to fulfill their
22 potential; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the interstate stream
24 commission be requested to convene a volunteer task force
25 that will address improvements in the following areas related

1 to water planning:

- 2 A. governance and institutional arrangements;
- 3 B. strengthening planning linkages;
- 4 C. public participation;
- 5 D. tribal participation;
- 6 E. technical information; and
- 7 F. water rights adjudication; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop,
9 through an open process, a detailed plan or proposal for
10 statutory, agency and regional action, to include the
11 rationale for and results expected from the water planning,
12 specific tasks, milestone schedules and estimated costs, to
13 be presented to the appropriate legislative interim committee
14 not later than July 1, 2018 for approval or modification; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership,
16 solicited through open invitation, include a diverse set of
17 participants from the sixteen planning regions, representing,
18 at a minimum, the following interests:

- 19 A. tribes;
- 20 B. agriculture;
- 21 C. the extractive industry;
- 22 D. urban users;
- 23 E. development and urban businesses;
- 24 F. environmental protection;
- 25 G. county and municipal governments; and

1 H. current water rights holders;
2 as well as representatives from the interstate stream
3 commission and other invited state agencies, such as the
4 office of the state engineer, the department of environment,
5 the energy, minerals and natural resources department, the
6 New Mexico department of agriculture and the Indian affairs
7 department; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider the
9 legislature's encouragement of collaboration among
10 neighboring communities sharing common water sources or
11 otherwise connected hydrologically to develop shared
12 strategies to improve their resilience; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the interstate stream commission, office of
15 the state engineer, department of environment, energy,
16 minerals and natural resources department, New Mexico
17 department of agriculture and Indian affairs department.

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